(c) In respect of the preparation of the Indian contingent for Commonwealth Games, 2010 with a view to improve performance, extensive discussions were held with all stakeholders, and it was decided that expenditure on preparation of teams should be subsumed within the existing schemes of the Ministry related to talent search, training, competition, etc. with suitable modifications and enhancements. Other requirements over and above these, are being assessed in consultation with each National Sports Federation based on which an action plan for each discipline will also be prepared, and the special needs would be met out of the National Sports Development Fund, Private Sponsorship, etc

Astroturf hockey grounds in Chhattisgarh

†2723. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations cleared for construction of astroturf hockey grounds in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the locations where construction work has been completed as on 31st January, 2007 and the grounds have been put to use;

(c) the amount sanctioned and released by the Central Government for each of such grounds alongwith the timings thereof; and

(d) the details of the action being taken by Government to get these sports grounds completed and put to use by releasing the remaining amount?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As 'Sports' is a state subject in the Constitution, the primary responsibility for the creation of sports infrastructure facilities lies with State Governments. Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of State Governments by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Scheme in accordance with the approved pattern subject to receipt of viable proposals. But with effect from 1.4.2005, the sports infrastructure schemes were transferred to the State Sector. Thus, fresh cases of sports infrastructure projects will have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Prior to the transfer of the Scheme, the Ministry had on 27.9.2002 approved in principle Central assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for the installation of a Synthetic Hockey Surface at the Sports Stadium, Jashpur, Chhattisgarh. In February, 2004, the State Government submitted some tender documents for the installation of the Synthetic Hockey Surface, which were found deficient. Hence, the Government of Chhattisgarh was requested to send the rectified documents, which the State Government has not submitted so far. Now, consequent upon the transfer of the Sports Infrastructure Scheme to the State sector, the State Government will have to fund the entire project out of their own resources.

Strengthening the Indian Cricket Team

2724. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of Indian Team for World Cup 2007 has been disheartening;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective measures and necessary action are proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Indian Cricket Team in future?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from BCCI, the team did not play to its full potential.

(c) The BCCI has deliberated on the matter and also obtained the suggestions of former captains of the Indian cricket team. Based on the inputs received, the BCCI is taking necessary steps for improving the preparation of the Indian cricket team for participation in major events, which includes intensive training inputs in different aspects of the game; norms in terms of minimum level of participation in domestic competitions etc.

India's defeat in World CUP-2007

2725. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state: